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January 2013 - Vol. 5 #1

GFI Newsletter: Welcoming New Opportunities

Project Update: Tunisia Inclusive Labor Initiative

GFI's new Program Manager **Halima Gellman** took her first trip to Tunisia in the beginning of December to coordinate with the team there and to begin the important process of mapping civil society organizations engaged with the informal sector.

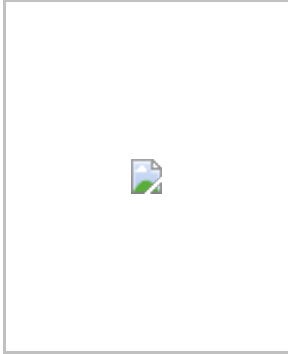
Some highlights of the trip include:

- Getting to know the staff of GFI's local partner, the **Tunisia Association for Management and Social Stability**, and learning more about TAMSS's successes with women and young entrepreneurs
- Traveling with two colleagues from TILI project partner, **Partners for Democratic Change**, to the cities of Sfax, El Kef, and Gafsa to participate in the initial CSO mapping
- Discussing coordination and possible collaboration with other international organizations addressing the informal economy in Tunisia
- Meeting with the consulting firm at work on a comprehensive report on tax law in Tunisia for GFI
- With a local Tunisian company, organizing focus groups of informal workers: the information gathered in the focus groups will inform the design of the TILI survey to collect data on the characteristics, challenges, and potential opportunities of the informal economy in Tunisia

TILI staff

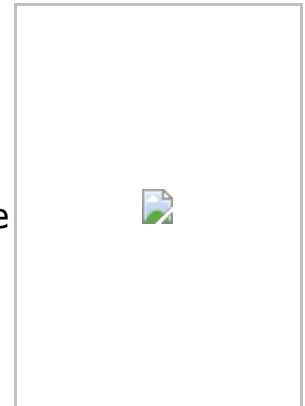
GFI is pleased to have the support and expertise of our local staff as we move forward with our project in Tunisia.

Country Director **Asma Ben Hassen Darragi**, an economist from



Tunis, will begin full-time work on the TILI project on January 15th. Asma holds a postgraduate degree in economic sciences and is working on a doctoral thesis showing the relationship between regional development strategies and employment, particularly for young people. She has ten years of experience in higher education, where she specialized in macro and microeconomic issues in labor economics, project management and evaluation, and business creation. Her work focused on creating sustainable economic development through the promotion of self employment and entrepreneurship. Asma has also worked as a consultant, diagnosing needs and developing training programs for various Tunisian companies.

Tarek Lamouchi is TILI's Project Officer, also based in Tunis. With a degree in marketing, Tarek spent more than six years working for one of the largest micro-finance institutions in Tunisia where he was initially responsible for research and development. He also managed a project helping Tunisian artisans export their work and conducted trainings in micro-finance, project cycle management, financial education, communication skills, and gender mainstreaming. He has taught communication skills at a private university and has provided training and consulting for various civil society organizations.



GFI announces new BeFair Campaign

GFI launched the BeFair Campaign in 2010 with the goal of bringing green technology and meaningful economic development to some of the world's poorest communities. Each year we work with a community to identify the technology its members feel will best help them address the challenges they face in working more efficiently and improving their livelihoods.

Thanks to the contributions of hundreds of supporters, in January 2011 GFI delivered 6,500 solar-

powered lanterns to salt farmers in Gujarat, India. In 2012 the BeFair Campaign provided 1,000 Farmer Livelihood Kits to farmers in the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala, bringing low-cost efficient drip irrigation systems to maximize water use and improve nutrition for indigenous families.

In 2013 GFI is taking its BeFair Campaign back to Northern India to bridge the technology gap for 2,000 salt farmers. Nearly 826 million Indians rely on heavily-polluting cookstoves, filling their homes with toxic fumes that lead to increased incidence of tuberculosis, cataracts, pneumonia, and premature death. Salt farmers, working informally in Gujarat, "spend 35% of their income on fuel and walk long distances for firewood, spending precious time unproductively," according to **Reema Nanavaty**, Director of India's Self Employed Women's Association. Women bear the primary responsibility for collecting fuel and often risk their safety in traveling far from home.

For as little as \$30, BeFair supporters can help us deliver a fuel-efficient, clean-burning cookstove to an Indian farming family -- reducing fuel costs, emissions, and time spent collecting fuel AND significantly improving health and livelihood opportunities.

"When I visit troubled areas, whether it is in the slums of India or violence-ravaged Afghanistan or the West Bank, the people I meet have one basic request. They ask for work."

Ela R. Bhatt
 Founder, Self Employed Women's
 Association
 2010 Fairness Award Honoree

Catch GFI Founder Karen Tramontano on Bloomberg TV

Karen joined other financial experts on December 20th to talk about the implications of the fiscal cliff.

[Watch Karen on Bloomberg TV](#)

Support GFI's BeFair Campaign



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